

27 Sep 62

Report Written by Aleks on 14 February 1962 for Estonian Desk

Last February Aleks was asked to write a report of his own version of what transpired one evening he spent with Mr. and Mrs. Bushman and a Col. Saarsen, who was a guest of Aleks' in Washington at the time. Aleks was a little reluctant to do this, as he felt Mr. Bushman had probably already written a report, and it seemed to Aleks that he was, in effect, being asked to give a second report to confirm the accuracy of Bushman's. Before he started the report, I checked with Mike, who in turn checked with the Estonian Desk officer, to be sure that Bushman would not see the report. We were advised that Bushman would not be aware of the report, and would not see it. If we had been told otherwise, Aleks felt he would have to be more careful of his comments about Bushman.

Bushman has become very cool towards Aleks in the past several months. Aleks is now somewhat concerned about whether Bushman might have seen the report Aleks wrote after all, or have been told some of the comments Aleks wrote which conflicted with Bushman's observations. They were old friends before this, worked together during World War II, and Aleks likes Bushman personally. He would not like to have been responsible for any deterioration in their relationship because of the report he was asked to write. He is aware, of course, that he might be over-sensitive in thinking this is the reason for Bushman's present aloofness, but would like to be sure it was not because of the report. If it is for other reasons, Aleks can handle the situation accordingly.

As you are well-aware, Aleks is a highly motivated person, and has often gone out of his way in many instances to provide the Estonian Desk with information of possible interest to them. He has been equally careful not to write reports voluntarily on any occasion when Bushman was present, as he felt Bushman would be ~~there~~ covering such events. However, Aleks is primarily in this project, and it seems to me that any information he provides for the Estonian Desk is gravy, and often takes time away from his work here. If he does not feel that the information he gives is being handled discreetly, it cannot help but affect the thoroughness of his future reports. Since he has been here, Aleks has offered his full-time services to the Estonian desk again, but has been told there was nothing available. However, the fact that they do ask for his comments and observations fairly frequently would seem to indicate they find him a valuable asset in certain aspects of their operations.

Could you please check on the report, and whether Bushman either saw it or was told some of its contents? As Aleks is this project's responsibility, I feel he should be protected from embarrassing situations arising from requests from the Estonian Desk. Almost all of his friends are Estonian, and other things could come up in the near future which might be awkward for him. Needless to say, it would compound the difficulties in the relationship with Bushman if he were made aware of this memo and Aleks' concern.

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